

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please Cancel claims 17-36 without prejudice.

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing and distributing data in a network storage  
2 system having a plurality of devices interconnected with one or more switches, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:  
4 writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data to a memory associated  
5 with a port of one of the one or more switches, the memory being readable by all of the  
6 plurality of devices;  
7 including in the set of data a disk identification string; and  
8 reading, by one of the plurality of devices, the set of data from the memory.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of data further comprises:  
2 an unique identification of one of the devices; and  
3 an address of the one of the devices.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the unique identification of one of the de-  
2 vices further comprises a unique serial number of the device.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the address of one of the devices further  
2 comprises a fully qualified network address.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of data further comprises identifi-  
2 cation of one or more disks that are offline and inaccessible to any of the plurality of de-  
3 vices.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification further comprises a  
2 world wide name.

1 7. (Previously Presented) A method for storing and distributing data in a network storage  
2 system having a plurality of devices interconnected with one or more switches, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:  
4 writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data to a memory associated  
5 with a port of one of the one or more switches, the memory being readable by all of the  
6 plurality of devices;  
7 reading, by one of the plurality of devices, the set of data from the memory;  
8 including in the set of data identification of one or more disks that are offline and  
9 inaccessible to any of the plurality of devices; and  
10 including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identification  
11 string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, and a disk number.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the memory associated with a port further  
2 comprises a Symbolic Port Name field.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A network storage system comprising:  
2 one or more switches having a plurality of ports, each switch having a memory  
3 associated with the port;  
4 a plurality of file servers interconnected with the one or more switches;  
5 a plurality of disks, each disk of the plurality of disks connected to at least one of the one  
6 or more switches; and  
7 one of the plurality of file servers writing a set of data, including a disk identifi-  
8 cation string, to the memory associated with one of the ports of one of the one or more  
9 switches.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the set of  
2 data further comprises:  
3 a unique identification of one of the devices; and  
4 an address of the one of the devices.

1 11. (Original) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the unique identification  
2 of one of the devices further comprises an unique serial number.

1 12. (Original) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the address further com-  
2 prises a fully qualified network address.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A network storage system comprising:

2           one or more switches having a plurality of ports, each switch having a memory  
3           associated with the port;  
4           a plurality of file servers interconnected with the one or more switches;  
5           a plurality of disks, each disk of the plurality of disks connected to at least one of  
6           the one or more switches; and  
7           one of the plurality of file servers, in response to one of the plurality of disks be-  
8           ing offline, writing a identification information, including a disk identification string, to  
9           one of the ports of one of the switches.

1    14. (Original) The network storage system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of switches  
2    comprise fibre channel switches operatively interconnected to define a switching fabric.

1    15. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 13, wherein the memory  
2    associated with the port further comprises a Symbolic Port Name field.

1    16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions  
2    executing on a file server, for storing and distributing data in a network storage system,  
3    the program instructions performing the steps of:

4           writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data, the data including a disk  
5           identification string, to a memory associated with a port of a switch, the memory being  
6           readable by all of said plurality of devices connected to the network storage system.

1           Claims 17 to 36 are cancelled.

Please Add New Claims 37 *et al.* as follows:

1    37. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           using as one of the plurality of devices a filer.

1    38. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           using as one of the plurality of devices a disk.

1    39. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2           using as one of the plurality of devices a filer.

1    40. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2           using as one of the plurality of devices a disk.

1    41. (New) A method for storing and distributing data in a network storage system having  
2    a plurality of devices interconnected with a switch, the method comprising the steps of:  
3           writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data into a port memory associ-  
4    ated with a port of the switch; and

5 including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identification  
6 string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, a disk number, and a  
7 status of the disk.

1 42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the plurality of devices comprises:  
2 a plurality of filers.

1 43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:  
1 reading, by a second filer of the plurality of filers when a first filer goes offline  
2 and in response to the disk identification string written by the first filer, the disks ac-  
3 cessed by the first filer.

1 44. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
2 determining, by a filer of the plurality of filers, if a disk has gone offline.

1 45. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:  
1 writing disk identification information into the port memory upon boot-up of a  
2 device of the plurality of devices, and the port memory accessible to being read by a  
3 processor in the switch.

1 46. (New) A network storage system, comprising:  
2 a switch having a plurality of ports;

3           a port memory associated with the switch;  
4           a plurality of devices connected to the switch, the plurality of devices writing a set  
5 of data, the data including a disk identification string, to the port memory; and  
6           a processor in the switch for reading the port memory.

1   47. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the plurality of devices comprises:  
2           a plurality of filers.

1   48. (New) The system of claim 47, further comprising:  
2           a second filer reading a plurality of disks attached to a first filer when the first  
3 filer goes offline and in response to the disk identification string written by the first filer.

1   49. (New) The system of claim 47, further comprising:  
2           a filer of the plurality of filers determining if a disk has gone offline.

1   50. (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising:  
2           a device in the plurality of devices writing disk identification information into the  
3 port memory upon boot-up of the device.

1   51. (New) An apparatus for storing and distributing data in a network storage system  
2 having a plurality of devices interconnected with a switch, the method comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 means for writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data into a port

5 memory associated with a port of the switch; and

6 means for including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identifi-

7 cation string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, a disk number,

8 and a status of the disk.

1 52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the plurality of devices comprises:

2 a plurality of filers.

1 53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising:

1 means for reading, by a second filer of the plurality of filers when a first filer goes

2 offline and in response to the disk identification string written by the first filer, the disks

3 accessed by the first filer.

1 54. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising:

2 means for determining, by a filer of the plurality of filers, if a disk has gone off-

3 line.

1 55. (New) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:

1 means for writing disk identification information into the port memory upon boot-

2 up of a device of the plurality of devices, and the port memory accessible to being read

3 by a processor in the switch.



1 56. (New) A computer readable media, comprising:  
2       said computer readable media containing instructions for execution on a processor  
3 for the practice of a method for operating a plurality of devices interconnected with a  
4 switch, comprising:  
5       writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data into a port memory associ-  
6 ated with a port of the switch; and  
7       including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identification  
8 string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, a disk number, and a  
9 status of the disk.

1 57. (New) Electromagnetic Signals propagating on a computer network, comprising:  
2       said electromagnetic signals carrying instructions for execution on a processor for  
3 the practice of a method for operating a plurality of devices interconnected with a switch,  
4 comprising:  
5       writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data into a port memory associ-  
6 ated with a port of the switch; and  
7       including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identification  
8 string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, a disk number, and a  
9 status of the disk.